

JUST PLAIN COUNTRY.

uty to Be Found In Rural Scenes Round About Home. The many another person of the present day, I have from time to time traveled as far as my means would permit—and a little farther—exploring the mountains and the high mountains to me, climbing high mountains, sailing broad seas and making acquaintance of coasts as full of mystery and of mystery, swept by the wind and of mystery, washed by green waves, were the far shores of Odysseus' adventure to Odysseus. And I had huge enjoyment in it all, riding to watch at distant corners of the earth the pageant of wind and cloud, trudging up unknown paths in a fine mood of adventure, driving across mountain passes into countries as fresh and as enchanting as if they had been created overnight to get this first fresh sense of quest. I sometimes and oftentimes I realize that no strange shore or wonder-land of pleasure quite so deep as that which comes at moments in mere country, the plain country of the land of America. I do not mean any of the show places of America. The glories of the Indian Rockies, the wonders of the Sierrita, are unknown to me. I know the common country of old-fashioned fences and winding roads, where fields of silver and sunnec cluster by gray rails or gray stone—common country, where the hay grows in June and the woods creep close to the hayfields and a little stream goes threading its way softly between the crosses. There is no sense of effort in your enjoyment. All is near and dear, familiar, perhaps for generations a part of your forefathers' lives. There is no need to try your eyes to take in the meaning of jagged rock outlines and steep earth masses or stretches of desert sand. You have not purchased expensive tickets whose worth to the uttermost penny must be extracted from the panorama before you, making you study it anxiously, eager to do your duty by every shade and line. You do not have to strain to see the sublime, as you do when confronted by scenery, capitalized scenery—capitalized in every sense of the word, do but all quietly upon some green bank, full of unforced pleasure at hardly names itself pleasure, so conscious it is.—Scribner's.



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In the mountains above the town, and the stone is brought down to the plain to be sawed and worked, largely in shops connected with the homes of the workmen. Explosives are used to obtain the largest size blocks, although wire saws driven by electricity are used in a few instances to quarry the blocks to the desired dimensions.

Russian-American Calendars. The Russian calendar is thirteen days behind the calendars of other Christian countries, and unless this fact is familiar to correspondents in the United States considerable confusion arises over the dates of letters, telegrams, etc. Usually in Russian business correspondence both dates are used, the Russian date having after it the letters O. S., meaning old style, and the date of foreign countries, N. S., meaning new style. For instance, the Russian Christmas occurs on Jan. 7 N. S., and the Russian New Year's day on Jan. 14 N. S.—Commerce Reports.

Pat's Retort. An English tourist was being taken through the country by an Irish jockey. They were traveling along the road when an ass put its head over the fence and began to bray with all its power. "Well, Pat," said the Englishman, "is that the 'Wearin' of the Green?'" "Arrah, no, yer honor," said Pat; "that's 'Johnny, I hardly knew you.'"—Chicago Herald.

Glaciers Are Brittle. An authority on the subject says that the substance of a glacier is brittle, though solid, and that its descent down a valley is caused by its constant fracture produced by gravitation and the sliding forward of the whole mass, the surfaces of the fractures speedily reuniting by regelation.

"Being Musical." What is called "being musical" cannot be passed on to some one else or to something else. You cannot be musical vicariously—through another person, through so many thousand dollars, through civic pride, through any other of the many means we employ. Being musical does not necessarily lie in performing music. It is rather a state of being which every individual who can hear is entitled by nature to again in a greater or less degree.—Atlantic.

Shell of the Snail. The snail's horny shell serves to protect its soft body against numerous foes. Slugs are simply snails that live a retired life and consequently need no covering at all. The shell of the snail is built up from lime in the plants on which it feeds, and they are never found on soil which contains no lime.

Quarries of Carrara. The wealth of the city and province of Carrara, Italy, which has a population of 220,000, is derived from the 500 quarries, which give employment in one way and another to over 8,000 workmen. The quarries are situated

CURIOUS MEALS.

Elephants Are Gormandizers, and Giraffes Have Queer Tastes. Elephants, at least captive elephants, have queer tastes, says Pearson's Weekly in an entertaining article about the peculiarities of four legged gourmets. One memorable day in 1908 Sufia Cull, the mighty and popular Indian elephant at the zoo, ate his bed. A thirty-six pound truss of straw had been put down on the floor for his comfort, and when the keeper went round in the morning not even the bands of the truss remained. Sufia Cull followed it up during the day by eating three trusses of hay, weighing 150 pounds. Finally some one brought a number of Christmas puddings into the elephant house. Sufia Cull swallowed his pudding without even opening the cardboard box that contained it.

A zoo keeper once kept a tally of the number of hot cross buns an elephant took down. For six hours on end one fine Good Friday it swallowed buns at the rate of 400 an hour!

The average giraffe loves nothing better in the world than a good square meal of flowers. It has not the slightest idea, however, of the difference between artificial and real flowers.

Some years ago when "garden hats" were all the rage the giraffe at the zoo made a day of it. In that glorious twelve hours it accounted for no fewer than seventeen hats, the majority of which were chewed beyond recognition before they could be rescued.

One of the funniest mistakes a giraffe ever made—funny for lookers-on, that is to say—was when a peacock strolled into its paddock. The peacock's tail caught the giraffe's eye, and evidently the animal mistook it for a gigantic and luxuriant species of flower. At any rate, before any one could interfere down came the giraffe's long neck, and, seizing the peacock by the tail, he hoisted it in midair. It was not long before bird and tail said goodbye to each other, and the peacock fluttered away, screaming with indignation. Although a trifle astonished at the proceedings of the newly discovered flower, the giraffe chewed the tail with great gusto.

JAPANESE GARDENS.

Their Aim is Always to Represent Nature in Miniature.

Every Japanese house of any pretensions must have a garden. The cost of one is invariably reckoned with the estimates for house building, being usually estimated at one-tenth the cost of the house. The Japan Magazine tells of the procedure:

When the niwashi (landscape gardener) gets the contract for a garden he first makes a model—that is, a miniature garden embodying every feature that the final product will have. The first thing to be done in laying out the garden is to select the place for the lake or pond and excavate it. The earth thus obtained is utilized for the construction of an artificial hill and also for a small island, both of these features being considered necessities. Next in importance is the placing of the stone lantern; then comes an artistic bridge to the island. Next comes the placing of trees, rocks and stones with due consideration for the appearance of the garden as a whole.

Japanese do not place much value on a new garden, age being of far greater importance. It is not until a few years have passed that the garden is considered at its best, for the stones and tree trunks must be moss-covered and the whole must give the appearance of nature's rather than man's work.

The garden is not laid out according to any scientific plan. It is rather a matter of instinct and experience, the aim of the artist being to represent nature in miniature.

An Odd Turkish Superstition. An odd Turkish superstition is as follows: If one finds a piece of bread lying upon the ground he must pick it up, kiss it and carry it until he finds a hole into which the bread can be inserted. To step upon a piece of bread or to leave it lying upon the ground is one of the unpardonable sins and dooms the offender to the third hell, where he is perpetually gored by an ox that has but a single horn that is in the center of his forehead.

The Smile. We talk of a smile of defiance. There is really no such thing. Such a so-called smile is nothing more nor less than a snarl, a survival of the way our savage ancestors had of showing their teeth in order to strike fear into the hearts of their enemies. The real smile of pleasure begins with slightly opening the mouth, and is, of course, traceable to the joy of those same savage forefathers of ours at the prospect of food.

Coffee In Java. It is said that nowhere in the world is coffee, the drink, worse than in Java, where coffee, the bean, is supposed to be at its very best. Javanese distill coffee essence of extreme strength, bottle it and pour a few drops into a cup of hot water when they wish refreshment.—Argonaut.

The Other Way. "Then you don't want to leave footprints upon the sands of time?" "Nix," answered the politician guardedly. "All I want is to cover up my tracks."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Family Jar. Mrs. Adipose—A man always wants his way Hubby—So would you if you weren't afraid to get on the scales.—Rehms' Times-Dispatch.

BIG CONCERNS WATCH WASTE OF MATERIAL.

Get Full Value Out of Labor Another Problem.

Your job depends upon two things: First, the profitableness of the business; and second, your efficiency. If the business is not remunerative it cannot long exist, and the inefficient workman is soon eliminated by the processes of competition and supervision.

The principal cost in all business is the labor and material cost, and the problem of business is to get full value out of labor and cut out all waste of material. The thrifflless workman can waste as much as he produces, and do it so unconsciously that it may not be detected without expensive checking. A fifty-cent article can be wrapped so expensively that the profit disappears. Paper and twine is often used so thriftlessly by department store employees that when delivery is made the profit is cut in two. These are the little leaks that waterlog the business ship. The employee must realize the fact that he is one of a great number and if he allows little wastes in material, or "soldiers" just a few minutes each day, in the aggregate the loss is enormous.

A few years ago there was a wreck on a western railroad that cost the company \$250,000. The president sent word down the line that as a special favor to him he wanted each man in the company's employ to endeavor to save five cents' worth of material a day, or do five cents' worth of work more a day than theretofore, and the loss would be made good in a year. The problem of all big concerns is to get the men in this frame of mind constantly—no loitering on the job and no waste in the job.

Big concerns everywhere are giving much thought to the elimination of the waste and utilization of all the by-products. Chicago is famous for using all the pig but the squeal. The Pennsylvania Railroad requires that every bolt and nut that can be retapped be used. You will find no waste iron around their yards. Even the cotton waste used in wiping engines is cleaned and used for packing journals. In the South the stumps of yellow pine, heretofore a nuisance and an encumbrance to the land, are now turned into resin, turpentine and other by-products.

Thrift in the Office. Large employers of office help are confronted with the problem of keeping down the cost of office supplies. As a corrective, a new eraser is not given until the metal center of the old one is returned. The stump of the old pencil is an order for a new one. Ink is kept in non-evaporating wells.

Those are our friends who reprimand us, not those who flatter us.—Pythagoras.

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